

Vol. 37 No. 5

ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT **ESPRIT**

Gateway to Excellence

June 2000



SEE LOCK AND DAM 24 REHAB ON PAGE 8...

Photo by Chris Morgan

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WORK



Commander's Perspective



COL Michael R. Morrow

"We have not been successful in getting our story out to the public."

The other day I was reading a local newspaper's editorial opinion criticizing the District's environmental record. The editorial contained numerous half-truths, misconceptions, and factual errors. The same newspaper had a column discussing the quality of public education.

This got me to thinking that all of us in the St. Louis District need to do a better job in educating the public on the missions we fulfill and the services we provide to the nation. We have not been successful in getting our story out to the public.

How many of your neighbors know that our flood control system of reservoirs, agricultural levees, urban floodwalls, non-structural techniques, and flood-fighting measures prevented \$5.4 billion in flood damages during the Great Flood of 1993?

How many high school and college students have been informed that the Middle Mississippi River during the Mark Twain era had already been altered and damaged by settlement of the region and that the Corps' efforts over the past 30 years have restored the river to its once majestic condition?

How many of your friends know that our Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Projects comprise nearly one-fourth of all wetland and deepwater habitats to be found in the lower 80 miles of the Illinois River Valley, thus forming an integral component of a nationally significant ecosystem?

How many of the local civic groups that we belong to are aware that, during low water conditions this past April, the Upper Mississippi River would have experienced an ecological and biological disaster, with large amounts of fish suffocating to death in evaporated side channels, had it not been for the navigation pools created by the locks and dams?

How many of your children have been told that our environmental and river engineering efforts have been at the forefront of environmental and river restoration, having won the American Rivers Association's Mississippi River Restoration contest, President Clinton's Design Award for Bendway Weirs, and Vice President Gore's Hammer Award for Environmental Pool Management?

I urge all members of the District Team to tout our quality projects, our admirable environmental record, and our service to the nation to friends, neighbors and families. Invite discussion and education through our websites. Volunteer to join our Speaker's Bureau. Our Public Affairs Office has prepared powerpoint presentations, complete with speeches that cover our various missions. They are on file in hard copy in PAO. At the very least, I urge you to review these presentations as a way to educate yourselves. Together we can get our story, the true story, out to the public.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District

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News Briefs

Wappapello Lake: **Waterfest 2000**

On 1-2 July 2000, Ranger Willie's Wet'n Wild Waterfest 2000 will be held at the Redman Creek Beach. This year's event will take in some new activities which include a Canoe Race, Inner Tube Race, Life Jacket Race and a Cardboard Boat Race. In addition to the new games, some of the old favorites will be played such as the Water Balloon Toss, Beanbag Toss, Blind Water Balloon Volley, Watermelon Eating Contest (Saturday only), and Sand Sculpture Contest (Sunday only). There will also be a Puppet Show and a PFD Fashion Show. Many prizes will be given away. Again this year the use-fee will be waived at this beach for those two days. So come on out and enjoy the Holiday weekend with family and friends at Waterfest 2000.

4th of July Festival

On 1-2 July 2000, the Wappapello Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting the 4th of July Festival at the Wappapello Lake Bill Emerson Memorial Visitor Center. Events will include carnival, craft show, games for all ages, car show, antique tractor show and live entertainment. On 2 July, a fire works display will be provided at the Redman Creek Recreation area.

New safety program

Wappapello Lake is implementing a new on-site program at the Bill Emerson Memorial Visitor Center this summer.

"The staff decided to capitalize on an opportunity to educate students of the area on a variety of safety issues such as water, boating, personal, firearms, hunting and environmental safety," said Andrew Jefferson, Interpretive

Ranger at Wappapello Lake. The staff plans to incorporate Public Safety Education Awareness into their summer education programs.

Rend Lake:

The Rend Lake Earth Day 2000 event was a great success because of the efforts of many individuals, agencies, contract personnel and Mother Nature for providing us with beautiful weather. Approximately 2,000 students, teachers, and parents attended each day of the event, which was geared toward kindergarten through third grades on Thursday, and fourth through eighth grades on Friday. The Rend Lake Earth Day Event was made possible by the coordinated efforts of about 50 - 60 people each day of the event which included Rend Lake maintenance crews, Rend Lake rangers, District Office personnel, rangers from other lakes, professionals from other agencies such as the Illinois Depart-

St. Louis District employee of the month

The St. Louis District's employee of the month for July is **Debbie Kuhlmann** of IM.

Debbie's extra effort was just what was needed for Lake Shelbyville's Memorial Day weekend when vendors were not only late in providing 50,000 day use fee envelopes, but also sent them to the wrong lake. Debbie went the extra mile to



track down the envelopes and pushed the vendor to send a partial shipment to Shelbyville at GPO's expense in time for the holiday weekend rush.

Debbie really had to hustle to make this happen in time for the holiday weekend, and the folks at Shelbyville sincerely appreciate her efforts. Her commitment to customer satisfaction and dedication to the Corps mission sets the standard for others to follow.



The Emergency Operations vehicle was a great success at Earth Day

ment of Natural Resources, paid professionals, and volunteers. There was an Earth Day sing-along at the amphitheater each day during lunch with Rend Lake Park Ranger Maureen Curran and Sara Rose. Earth Day 2000 also featured a NO TRASH, LUNCH BASH. The idea was to generate as little trash as possible. Out of four thousand visitors, only two small dumpsters of trash remained to be



News Briefs (cont.)

hauled away. Several sacks of aluminum cans were recycled. The event drew schools from an approximately 50-mile radius from Rend Lake and included students from Mt. Vernon to Marion, Ill. Classes attending the celebration were provided with 5 environmentally related programs throughout the day.

Ranger says goodbye

Long-time STEP employee Corbett Neal will be leaving Rend Lake at the end of the month. Corbett has worked in the Interpretive Services and Outreach program since May 1997 and has organized special events, given an impressive number of public informational programs, and scheduled the Rend Lake Environmental Science Series programs and Sunset Series Concerts during her three year tenure. Rend Lake congratulates her on graduating with a double major in Microbi-



ology and Biology from Southern Illinois University. Corbett plans to continue her education by attending Dr. William Scholl's College of Podiatric Medicine in Chicago this fall.

Safety course held

The Rend Lake Visitor Center hosted an eight-hour Boating Safety class on Saturday, May 20. The course is sponsored by the IDNR but taught primarily by volunteer instructors who, for this course, will include several rang-



ers from Rend Lake. Youngsters between the ages of 12 and 18 are required to pass this Coast Guard approved course before they can operate a boat on their own. Several hands on activities were used for teaching certain skills including the personal watercraft display, nautical maps and compasses, canoe, first aid kits, and alcohol goggles. Conservation Police Officer Tim Lay spoke about rules and regulations

Carlyle Lake:

Memorial Day holiday weekend

Even with overcast, humid, and cool temperatures at Carlyle Lake visitation was over 80,000 for the Memorial Day weekend. All campgrounds and overflow camping were full. Approximately 450 children enjoyed the appearance of Smokey the Bear in the campgrounds. Many people stopped by the Carlyle Lake Visitor Center. It was a safe weekend for all with no major incidents.

Recreation safety festival

Carlyle Lake Project hosted its first Recreation Safety Festival on Saturday, June 10, 2000 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Dam West Recreation area. The Illinois State Police, Bond and Clinton county fire protection dis-

tricts and Sheriff departments presented safety programs aimed at diverse age groups. Also, the Illinois Extension Service and other organizations from the surrounding communities were available throughout the day interacting with visitors to help them learn to be safe traveling or recreating at Carlyle Lake.

Lake Shelbyville:

Fishing tournament

The weather was perfect for the annual Kid's Fishing Tournament on Saturday, June 3rd at Lake Shelbyville's Opossum Creek Pond. Twenty-six young fishermen and their families attended the Kid's Tournament, and competed for prizes in categories such as First Fish Caught, Longest Fish, Heaviest Fish, Most Fish, and Last Fish Caught.

Fishermen enjoyed an afternoon in the sunshine and fourteen fish were caught. Plaques were awarded in all categories. At the close of the tournament, a drawing was held for prizes such as fishing poles, bait and tackle, and life jackets. Prizes were generously donated by local businesses.

Aqua-Fest water safety carnival

The Aqua-fest Water Safety Carnival will be held on June 24, from 12 p.m. until 4 p.m. at Lake Shelbyville's Dam West Beach. The carnival will include games and events such as Cold Hand Luke, Flotation Fashion Show, Aqua Obstacle Course, Life Ring Toss, Tug-of-War, Sand Sculpture Contest, and many others. Corkey the boat will interact with the crowd to ensure that everyone has a good time and to provide them with some very important water safety tips.

If you have a life jacket that you would like to have inspected bring it along. Park Rangers will inspect

Continued on page 5



Millennium trail designation

Mark Twain Lake's Joanna Trail has been designated as an Official Community Millennium Trail by the White House Millennium Council. Millennium Trails is a partnership among the White House Millennium Council, the Department

"In recognition of efforts to bring the community together..."

of Transportation, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, the National Endowment for the Arts and other public agencies and private organizations.

The goal of the Millennium trails is the creation of a nationwide network of trails that protect the natural environment, interpret history and culture, enhance alternative transportation, recreation and tourism. The theme is "Honor the Past-Imagine the Future". Those trails designated as Millennium received certificates from Hillary Rodham Clinton and a designation placard for the trail.



New employees

Welcome to **Brian Keith Sides**, a Student Trainee Structural Engineer in Design Branch. Brian is from Jackson, Mo., and is currently attending the University of Missouri at Rolla, majoring in Civil Engineering.



Theresa Aubrecht is a student employee in the District's Internal Review Office. Theresa is assisting the IR Chief in performing a variety of administrative and audit-related tasks. She is a full time student at SIU-Edwardsville and is majoring in accounting. Theresa expects to graduate in May 2002. Her long range goal is

to obtain a permanent job and begin her career after graduation in auditing, accounting or budgeting. Theresa has three children.

More new employees on page 6

Aqua-Fest continued

jackets to make sure they are in good condition and fit properly.

This event is free and is geared toward all ages - children, teens, and adults! Participants will be awarded prizes donated by area businesses. So, come out to the Aqua-fest Water Safety Carnival for a wet and wild time..

For additional information, contact the Lake Shelbyville Interpretive Office at (217) 774-3313.



Welcome to **Pete Russell** (below), Student Trainee Civil Engineer in the Hydrologic and Hydraulics Branch, River Engineering Unit. Pete attends the University of Missouri at Rolla and lives in Florissant, Mo.



Aloha. **Thomas M. Brady** comes to us from the Honolulu District where he served as Emergency Planner. Tom is the new Disaster Program Manager in Emergency Operations. Originally from St. Louis and an alumnus of DeSmet and the University of Missouri at Rolla, Tom also serves as a Major in the U.S. Army Reserves. Tom enjoys beach sports, diving, computers, and is particularly fond of, and adept at the ever-popular TV-couchpotato-football-beer sport.

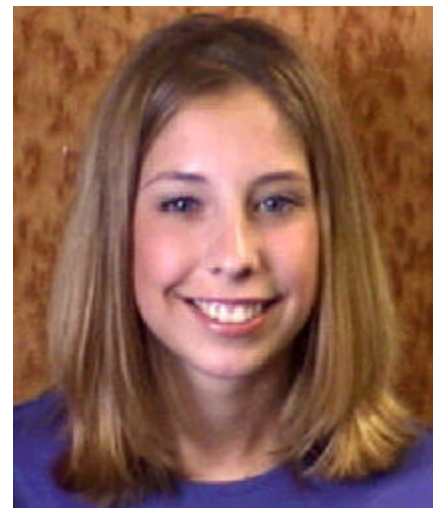


Robert Steven Rogers is serving a summer tour as a Hydrologic Technician in the Potamology Section of the Hydrologic and Hydraulics Branch. Robert attends the University of Missouri at Columbia where he is majoring in Civil Engineering. He is from St. Louis and graduated from Parkway South High School.



Welcome to Lake Shelbyville's newest Ranger, **Leah Morrow**. Leah previously worked as a student trainee at Mark Twain Lake. She is originally from Montgomery City, Mo, and recently graduated from the University of Missouri at Columbia with a degree in Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

Sabrina Gerecke is a Civil Engineering Technician Trainee in the Construction Branch, Cape Girardeau Office. Sabrina is from Dexter, Mo. and attends Southeast Missouri State University where she is majoring in Industrial Technology. She has an AAS degree in Drafting and Manufacturing from Three Rivers Community College, and is working on a second AAS degree in Civil Construction. Sabrina's goal is to obtain a Masters Degree in engineering from UMR.



Stacy Friesenborg is a Student Trainee Civil Engineer in the Construction Branch. Stacy currently attends UMSL/Washington University's joint engineering program and lives in St. Peters, Mo.



Is there a carpenter in the house?



Who is the best young carpenter in Illinois? Just ask Kathy Englemann if you want an “un-biased” response.

Kathy’s son, Brian Englemann, was one of four contestants representing the Southern Illinois District Council of Carpenters at the Illinois State Council of Carpenters’ annual state-wide apprenticeship competition in Chicago. The challenging competition consisted of eight hours of manipulative carpentry skills and a four-hour written test.

Englemann earned first place in the competition, and is now considered the top apprentice carpenter in the state of Illinois. The skills developed by Brian and the other finalists demonstrates that union craftsman apprenticeship programs are still a good investment in the future for young men and women.

Things to do in the District

Carlyle Lake

June 4-Sept. 3 - Arts & Ecology Series
July 1 - Fireworks Spectacular
July 15 - Kaskaskia Duck Race
Oct. 20-21 - Haunted Trail
Nov. 5 - IDNR Youth Pheasant Hunt
Dec. 1 - Christmastown USA & Lighting of the Visitor Center

Wappapello Lake

July 1-2 - Wet N' Wild Waterfest 2000
Sept. 16-17 - 9th Annual Old Greenville Days
Nov. 25 - Dec. 25 - 8th Annual Festival of Light Christmas Auto Tour

Lake Shelbyville

June 17 - Craft Show
June 24 - Aqua Fest
June 30 - Dog-O-Rama
July 1 - Fireworks Extravaganza
Aug. 5 - Lithia Springs Chautauqua Living History Tour

Oct. 7-8 - Fall Colors Hike
Oct 28 - Lithia Springs Trail of Terror
TBA - Victorian Splendor Light Festival

Rend Lake

July 1-2 - Taste of Freedom Festival
July 2 - Fireworks display
Aug. 5 - Rend Lake Beach Blast
Sept. 23 - Rend Lake Cleanup

Mark Twain Lake

June 30-July 2 - Mark Twain Lake Rodeo
July 8 - Mark Twain Lake Waterfest
Aug. 12-13 - 15th Annual Salt River Folklife Festival
Sept. 2-3 - North American Bullriding Association World Championship Finals
Sept. 22 - Environmental Education Fair
Oct. 7-8 - Missouri Mule Days
TBA - An Adventure in Astronomy



Major rehabilitation of Lock & Dam 24

By Lattissua Tyler

Having been designed in 1937 and constructed by 1940, Lock and Dam 24 at Clarksville, Mo. celebrated its 60th anniversary in early May 2000.



The American Queen motoring through the newly renovated lock on its way up river.

The gift it received: a complete make over. The locks and dams on the Mississippi were designed for a 50-year life and Lock and Dam 24 has operated for more than 10 years past its intended life span. But because of the past 60 plus years of wear and tear, many critical portions of the lock and dam have worn out or deteriorated. Concrete deterioration, settlement problems and inability to use the auxiliary lock closure for the intended purpose are just a few of the underlying problems that call for rehabilitation. Unfortunately, the normal operation and maintenance budget could not assure the lock and dam continued operation. Although the locks and dams do not provide flood protection, they do, however, provide year round navigation for barges and recreational watercrafts. So keeping them in a workable and safe condition is essential to the Corps' continued excellence in customer service.

The rehabilitation for Lock and Dam 24 is a multi-year project divided into two parts, Part 1 and Part 2. Part 1 of the rehabilitation includes the major mechanical and electrical equipment that operate the lock and dam; the miter gates along with their electrical controllers; bridge columns, placement of bendway weirs, an outdraft cell upstream of the intermediate lock wall and the auxiliary lock closure. Part 2 of the rehab includes the Illinois abutment, dam gates and trunnion anchorage and the lock concrete. All projects in Part 1 have been com-

pleted except the auxiliary lock closure and the upstream outdraft cell. Part 2 is currently in the design and analysis phase, soon to be awarded and completed.

Although the weather-proof cabinets that housed the operation and control switches and levers, used by lock masters to manipulate the lock gates, have managed to stand their ground, all the switches and levers that opened and closed the lock gates have been replaced with advanced computers and programs with the ability to control all of the lock gates functions with a click of the mouse. Also being replaced are the miter gates, which

have numerous holes in the structural members. The miter gates are large gates on both ends of the lock that open and close, allowing river traffic to pass through the chamber. These miter gates are the most traditional type of lock gates and have been used for hundreds of years prior to their use on the Mississippi River, but the Corps is credited for refining the design.

Another part of the rehab is the auxiliary lock closure area. Upon completing the main locks, the Corps constructed auxiliary lock foundations and equipped the incomplete locks with emergency gates. These gates were to be opened if the pool was lost, allowing river traffic to pass. But for Lock and Dam 24 that is not the case, as the auxiliary gates at Lock and Dam 24 are completely unusable. They have deteriorated and cannot be trusted to hold pool. The closure structure will be needed in workable condition for its intended purpose when concrete rehab is being done to the main lock.

The total cost for Part 1 of the rehab is an estimated \$25,100,000 and \$44,900,000 for Part 2. The rehab is cost shared with the towing industry through the Inland Waterway Trust Fund and the government, who each pay 50 percent.



New miter gates being barged in to Lock and Dam 24

Photo by Chris Morgan

Photo by Chris Morgan



The Corps of Engineers celebrates 225 years of Engineering Excellence



LTG Joe Ballard

This is not **just** an Engineer Day celebration; it is a historic occasion - the 225th anniversary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The United States has never been without Army engineers. We were there at the birth of our nation. From the fortifications at Bunker Hill on June 16, 1775, to the taking of Redoubt Ten at Yorktown on Oct. 14, 1781, Army engineers played a crucial role in the war fought to make the United States a free and independent nation.

Since then, throughout our history, the Corps has earned a reputation for nation-building and national defense. One of our earliest missions was building and repairing fortifications, first in Norfolk, Va., and then in New Orleans. Today, we continue this tradition by building facilities for the Army and the Air Force throughout the world. In the past year the Corps built the Chemical Defense Training Facility and the Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., new barracks and maintenance facilities at Fort Gordon, Ga., a new recruiting station in Times Square in New York City, and a new Medical Dental Clinic at Kadena Air Base on Okinawa.

The Corps of Engineers has always been a scientific organization, at the cutting edge of new technology. In 1825, Maj. Stephen Long calculated the length and angle of wing dams

needed to prevent sandbar formation on the Ohio River. Steam-powered snag-boats designed by Henry Shreve dramatically improved navigation on the nation's rivers. Stephen Long developed a new design for railroad bridges in the mid-1830s. The Corps continued its innovation by fielding the TeleEngineering system that uses satellite communications to allow people in the field to participate in real-time video consultations with anyone in the Corps. Engineers in Albania used TeleEngineering to solve complex engineering problems through communications with experts at Europe District, Headquarters, and North Atlantic Division.

The Corps has had a flood control mission ever since the 1928 Flood Control Act, which approved dispersing flood waters in the lower Mississippi River through controlled outlets and floodways, and the 1936 Flood Control Act, which declared that flood control is an activity of the federal government and put the Corps in the reservoir construction business. In January, the Corps dedicated Seven Oaks Dam in California, part of the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project, which will protect three million people, and 225,000 structures in the Los Angeles area.

Our first formal disaster relief mission took place during the Mississippi River

Flood of 1882 when the Corps supported the Quartermaster Corps in rescuing people and property. The Corps wrote a new chapter in this mission during Hurricane Floyd. In Florida, the Corps purchased and distributed 300,000 pounds of ice, sent two Deployable Tactical Operations Centers into action, and seven soldiers from the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power) prepped 280 prepositioned generators for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In the Carolinas, the Corps distributed thousands of sandbags to stem flooding, provided 750,000 gallons of water and 960,000 pounds of ice, and stored flood run-off so it could be released in a controlled manner.

The Corps' role in protecting water resources has continuously evolved since the 1880s and 1890s when Congress directed the Corps to prevent dumping in harbors. Not long ago, a team in Jacksonville District continued that tradition as they wrote the Central and Southern Florida Comprehensive Review Study, a plan to restore natural waterflow to the Everglades.

Our support for others dates back to the early 19th century when the Corps built many projects for the Department of Treasury, including three customs houses, several hospitals for merchant seamen, and dozens of lighthouses. That mission continued as the Transatlantic Programs Center helped the U.S. Agency for International Development rebuild buildings damaged in the U.S. Embassy bombing in Nairobi. In addition, Albuquerque District is building facilities for the U.S. Border Patrol. Throughout the years, the Corps of Engineers has kept pace with our nation, supporting and building it in thousands of ways large and small. As we enter our 225th year, we continue writing chapters of our history that parallel the growth and life of the United States.

ESSAYONS!

JOE N. BALLARD
Lieutenant General
Commanding



The festivities included the ground breaking and lunch at the golf course. Pictured from left to right are: Bruce Clark, IDNR, Curt Grandberg, Ill. State Rep., Rodney Davis, Congressman Shimkus Aide, Frank Watson, Illinois State Senator, Sheldon Keyser, USDA, Mel Yarmat, Developer, Dean Murphy, Old National Bank, Danville

Carlyle Lake breaking ground on new resort

Ground breaking ceremonies were held on May 10, 2000 for the 40-acre resort development of the Carlyle Resorts, Inc. The resort will include a three-story, 65-room Microtel Inn and Suites Hotel, development of a 5+ acre pond with 8-12 cabins located around the lake, hiking trails, and a restaurant to accommodate the resort clientele, campers, boaters, and the public. The first phase of the development is scheduled to open in late July or early August.

New Assistant Operations Manager at Wappapello

Cynthia Jackson has been selected as the new Assistant Operations Manager at Wappapello Lake. She comes to us from Cheatham Lake in Tennessee. Cynthia began her new position at Wappapello on 4 June.

"I feel fortunate to be a part of the Wappapello team and I am looking forward to innovative challenges and projects," Cindy said. I am happy to be in the St. Louis District and I love the great outdoors opportunities surrounding the area. The Wappapello team has welcomed me and I am really fortunate to have good folks and good attitudes surrounding me."

Cindy was raised in rural Arkansas (Amity) and attended Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation in 1983. She first began

working for the Corps of Engineers as a Park Technician in 1981 at Lake Ouachita, Arkansas. Other Corps Lakes at which she has worked include Monroe Navigation Field Office, Monroe Louisiana; Lake Greeson, Arkansas; Lake Barkley, Kentucky and; for the past 13, years Cheatham Lake, Tennessee.

During Cindy's career she has been a Park Ranger, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Assistant Resource Manager and Environmental Protection Specialist/Ranger for the Corps. She also worked in the Corps Headquarters in the Career Advancement Program in 1998. And for 1 year worked for the National Park Service at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Her hobbies include photography, fishing, camping, hunting and traveling.





New Assistant Operations Manager at Rend Lake



Kevin Curran, a fifteen-year employee of the St. Louis District who has been at Rend Lake for the past seven and a half years, has been selected as the new Assistant Operations Manager at Rend Lake. Kevin received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry, Outdoor Recreation Management from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale in 1983 and completed a Master's Degree in Forestry from the same institution in 1986. Kevin started his career at Wappapello Lake in 1985 where he worked primarily in the natural resource manage-

ment arena. In 1987 Kevin transferred to Mark Twain Lake where he was eventually promoted to the program ranger for Recreation Management at the lake, and later the ranger in charge of the Environmental Management Program. Kevin returned to Southern Illinois to become the program ranger for the Environmental Management Program at Rend Lake in 1993. An avid softball player, Kevin is also the manager for his 9-year-old son's baseball team, and the cubmaster at his son's school.

Wilmington District joins Ranger Willie B. Safe safety



RANGER WILLIE B. SAFE SAYS...
Be safe and wear a life jacket.

By Donna Adams

Wappapello Lake staff members of the Ranger Willie B. Safe Safety Team were recently invited to the Wilmington District. Rangers Andrew Jefferson, Kathy Dickson, and Donna Adams traveled to W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir in Wilkesboro, North Carolina, to present the featured program at "Water Safety Forum 2000". Participants included Operations Managers, Park Rangers, District Program Managers, Public Affairs Officers, divers, and members of various other agencies to include County Sheriffs, Coast Guard Auxiliary, National Guard, emergency response personnel, and water safety councils from each lake in the district. The purpose of the forum was to share ideas and identify ways to promote water safety.

All the participants were warmly welcomed by the staff at W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir. The energy level

was high. The forum was patterned after the International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS). First, they heard reports from the water safety councils from each lake in the district. Next, they had an overview of the 2000 IBWSS. Some of the other agency representatives shared their efforts with the group. Then, after a short break, the lights went down, the music went up, and the show was on!

The Wappapello Lake crew provided a lively presentation, to say the least. The audience sang and danced, clapped and yelled, tapped their feet, performed skits, laughed, and applauded. They were given coloring books, cassette tapes, screen savers, campaign buttons, refrigerator magnets, book marks, and lists of resources. Many attendees congratulated the Wappapello staff members on the Ranger Willie B. Safe Program and expressed a lot of interest. The staff made a lot of good contacts and every-

one exchanged information.

The afternoon consisted of lunch and hands-on, waterfront activities and workshops. The forum was a great experience for the staff. Probably, the best compliment heard was "They were like Amway representatives. I really want to get out and do something with this!" Please welcome Wilmington District as the newest member of Ranger Willie B. Safe's Safety Team!

TOO HOT TO HANDLE!



The Indiana Society to Prevent Blindness reminds us each year that sparklers, the most widely sold legal fireworks, will injure hundreds of children in this year's celebrations. Sparklers, which sizzle at a temperature of 1800 degrees Fahrenheit, are a common cause of corneal burns. Be Safe!



REAL LIFE SCIENCE 2000 (at the district office)

By Terrie Hatfield

The St. Louis District Headquarters was one of two sites for St. Louis area students to embark on a series of adventures into the world of science and engineering. Our goal, to



Patrick Murrell thinks Ranger Chris Coe's critters are cool!



Janet Ulivi begins 4 year old daughter, Catherine's engineer training early

spark or expand interest in curious young minds, specifically in those areas of science that impact their daily lives, was again attained as the students marveled at the wonders of science and nature, and the vast diversity of activities performed by the St. Louis District.

The curiosity of the children was rivaled only by the creativity of the presenters. Jacque Mattingly of the FUSRAP team demonstrated hazardous and toxic waste cleanup with a plastic swimming pool filled with dirt and lots of

nasty looking rubber creatures, which the children, dressed in protective gear, "cleaned up". This exercise also included a more sophisticated explanation for the older students and adult visitors. Chris Coe, Mark Twain Lake Ranger, showcased a friendly turtle and some lizards. Since the sociable snake, the one who seems to enjoy being handled by children, had escaped somewhere in the office the previous day and failed to show up for the trip, Chris creatively substituted several huge and fierce hissing cockroaches from Madagascar. These creatures were so revolting, even Chris wouldn't touch them. (How many kids can go to work with their parents and get to have this kind of fun?) Rachel Garren and Pam Doty never ran out of snappy comebacks as the voice of Corkey, the talking boat, who continuously confounded the kids with very specific responses, and

called them by name. (How does he do that?)

Of course, Hank Counts held the kids in awe with his continuous recitation of harrowing bomb stories. Some of the big kids (engineers and biologists) showed the visitors how to use the flat portions of Rob Gramke's Water-



Biologist Eric Laux explains watershed management to Diadra and Danielle James and Shirley Bledsoe



Rangers Andrew Jefferson and Kathy Dickson as Willy B. Safe, Phil Manhart and Corkey pose with new friends Amy, Dawan, Megan and Markest

shed Model as a drag strip, and had to be reminded to put the little trucks back on the model, so the visitors could learn about watersheds. The bridge building team expanded their efforts this year to two types of bridges, which was, as expected, extremely popular with kids of all ages. Since now, at the beginning of the new millennium, kids and computers almost behave as a single unit, the Geospatial Branch had their hands full with a never-ending line of knowledge-seekers. Terry Norris and Diane Ousley presented intriguing archaeology lessons, and Greg Hempen assured that his visitors know how to protect themselves during earthquakes. Rich Astrack continues to expound on teamwork, teamwork, teamwork, and the Wappapello Rangers did an outstanding job of imprinting water safety on everyone's mind. Phil Manhart demonstrated the workings of a lock, and Eric Laux presented a display and continuous overview of the District's environmental accomplishments.

The Civilian Activities Council (CAC) was again very generous. CAC volunteers provided punch, cookies, and St. Louis District Real Life Science 2000 water bottles to the visitors.

All who participated in Real Life Science 2000, both at District Headquarters and at the Service Base, in front of the audience and behind the scenes, are to be commended for their professionalism, their dedication, and their interest in imparting knowledge to our future scientists. Just maybe, a child you inspired on that day may someday make a significant and positive contribution which will change our world.



Jacquie Mattingly teaches Angie Sally's son, Dawan and Sheila Burnett's son Markest the correct way to clean up hazardous waste.

More Kids Day in the District on page 15



To your health

Keeping Track of kids in the wild

By Terrie Hatfield

Camping or hiking with the family this year? To keep track of your youngest family members, small children should wear bells on their shoes, tied into their shoestrings. Older kids can wear a whistle around their necks to help parents locate them. So much for the local camping and hiking kid rules.

While camping or hiking in the mountains, or anywhere large dangerous wildlife lives, the rules change drastically and you and your children must become familiar with the rules, dan-

gers and wildlife of the area. Warnings are usually posted at the trailheads. Always keep children with you—do not let them run ahead. A child running alone down the trail is as much lunch to a big cat as is a small deer, and has no chance to escape. (This happened when I was in Rocky Mountain National Park two years ago, on a

well-traveled hiking trail.) According to the National Park rangers, a mountain lion needs at least 100 square miles of hunting territory to survive. Encroachment by developers has pushed big cats closer together and children are, by far, the slowest and easiest prey. Bears are great fun to watch and photograph, but stay as far

away from them as possible, or you or your child could be in serious peril. A camera with a good zoom is a safe way to capture those special moments. Even the majestic elk, although gentle in appearance, has been known to launch vicious attacks on humans. Make enough noise on the trail so you don't accidentally come face-to-face with a large predator. Always remember, the animals were there first, this is their home, and they know it. If you visit as a watchful and gracious guest, and obey the rules, you can have a happy and safe summer.



Preparation: The key to a great and safe hike

It's the perfect time of year to visit park trails, get close to nature, and revitalize yourself in the great outdoors. Your hike can do this for you, or it could be a bad experience. It all depends on how well you have prepared.

Your body: Get in shape for an all-day hike by taking gradually longer walks. To build extra strength, try a stair stepping machine or start taking the stairs rather than the elevator.

Gear: Use footwear that is well broken in, and carry liquid bandage gel or moleskin in case you feel a sore spot or blister developing. Carry tick repel-

lant, and tuck your pants into your socks, if possible. Take tweezers. Pack one more layer of clothes than you think you'll need and carry a rain poncho. Pack sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses, and plenty of water.

Wilderness protection: A first aid kit is essential. Doctors advise that any location more than one hour from medical attention must be considered a wilderness. When you get to the trailhead, you have to start thinking like a pioneer.

Know basic first aid and carry a cell phone, if possible, so you can guide

rescuers if an emergency develops. Hike with a friend rather than alone. Carry a map of the area and a compass. Know how to react if you encounter a wild animal. The rules for a close encounter with a bear are much different than the recommended method of dealing with a mountain lion.

To learn more about handling medical problems in the wilderness, read *Medicine for the Backcountry* (Globe Pequot Press) by Dr. Frank Hubble of Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities (SOLO), Conway, N.H., and Buck Tilton of the Wilderness Medical Institute in Pitkin, Ohio.



Retiree Review

A group of retirees met at the Salad Bowl, on May 18, for their monthly get together. The number was very small, but they had fun discussing the cares of the retirement world.

Bob Lutz mentioned that it had been a long time since he did manual engineering computations. Seems that he had a requirement to determine the "size" of some land. He mentioned that when he was working, he would use computers and other sophisticated devices to determine "size". Being retired does not avail one of these modern devices, and he had to resort to the old manual method. He did say that it was rather refreshing to know that he could still do it. Apparently, he was successful in computing the "size" of the land. (It just goes to show that once you master something mentally, it stays with you for ever.)

Bob Maxwell was rather intrigued by the whole discussion. He said that at his age and state of life, the last thing he is interested in doing is anything requiring a lot of mental and manual effort. His main objective is to just enjoy life as it comes.

Lew Scheuermann made mention of the Division golf tournament to be held at Memphis, on June 15 & 16. He said that not too much information has been sent out, but he hopes that there will be a good representation from the St. Louis area. He also mentioned that Jim Baker is intending to be in the St. Louis area this summer to visit family. He and Jim and their wives, will probably pay a visit to the

Huizengas. If the weather isn't unbearable, they may even get in a round of golf.

Lee Robinson made an appearance and agreed with Bob Lutz, about having to do computations manually. He said that he avoids doing such things as much as possible.

Pete Puricelli mentioned that he met Tom Miano recently at Grant's Farm. Tom was enjoying the elephant show with such enthusiasm, that Pete thought he was a scout for a circus. He tried to get Tom and the trainer, Vito, together, if for no other reason than to discuss ethnic backgrounds. (Man, there's three of a kind to stay away from.) Tom said that he is very busy finishing all the things he started years ago and never completed, or just starting new "stuff" that he always wanted to do and never had time for. Either way Tom looks great, just like the "teddy bear" he was when he was working. He also said that he as had to have his hair "grayed a little" so that he can look more mature. That way he can command a little more respect from friends and relatives. (Sounded good the way he explained it.) Pete also mentioned that he met Laurel Nelson in the Barnhof, doing some quality analysis of the beverages served. She said that the quality was up to standard and that she gave her approval.

The June luncheon is scheduled for June 15th at the Salad Bowl at about 11:00am. Mark your calendars.



John Zacher remember Christmas past and putting together all those gifts while the kids do the hard work!

Jeff Stamper talks the Banovz family through virtual bridge building, while Deanne Strauser and Steve Hobbs assist Pat English, niece Megan and best friends Katie and Katie.





Stephens does missionary work in Mexico

By Dennis Stephens

Earlier this year, I traded my computer for a Bible and began my third missionary trip to a third world country. I spent one week in the small, 350 year old town of Llera, near Ciudad Mante, Mexico, about 250 miles south of the border. Our missionary group included a missionary to the world, a minister from Mo., a missionary to Russia, and a missionary to Mexico who served as our interpreter.

Our living quarters consisted of four rooms, the kitchen, laundry/bathroom, and two bedrooms. Most construction in this tropical environment is made of concrete because of the termites. The concrete is mixed by hand and poured in place. A lot of rebar is used in this construction, and is exposed about 6 inches above the columns in most houses to allow for expansion.

I noticed a difference from our own in the culture and mannerisms of the people I met. I saw a very friendly spirit. Everyone, young and old, takes the time to greet everyone in the room. The common phrase used in church is *Dios le Biendiega*, which translates as God Bless You.

In Mexico, time has no meaning. A church service scheduled to start at seven o'clock in the evening might not start until eight. There are many reasons for this. Work is long and hard in the fields. Everyday transportation consists of on foot, by horse, donkey, public bus or car. Gasoline is very expensive, so those few with cars do not usually use them for daily transportation. The main roads were like our

two-lane county roads but in poorer condition. The secondary roads are made of dirt, gravel, cobblestone, and whatever is available. These roads have many strategically placed holes in them and a lot of speed bumps to slow down traffic. (I had earlier learned that in Russia, a speed bump is called a sleeping policeman.) Even their highways have sleeping policeman in them. I do not think car shocks last long here.

Where I stayed, sugar cane fields and orange groves dotted the terrain. As we passed by a sugar cane refinery, we saw ox carts transporting the sugar cane. I observed trucks of oranges going to the market. The second day we were in Llera, a local gave us a sack of fresh oranges-good and juicy.

These people do not have many of the conveniences that we take for granted. They must drink bottled water because the tap water is not adequately treated. Water is heated in holding tanks on the roof. Showers are really short. The bathrooms are usually outside and toilet paper is at a premium. Trash must be burned daily. Wash is done in large buckets. Electricity is not guaranteed all the time; no microwaves, can openers, television or electrical appliances to make life easier. In the little spare time we had, we interacted and talked

through our interpreter to the Mexican people. We were guests for many meals and had some excellent Mexican dishes. (Taco Bell does not know how to make tacos.) You really do need to run to the border to get true Mexican food.

We visited many churches in the area. Time was short, so we spent most of our time ministering at morning, afternoon and night services. Members of a church in Ciudad Mante are building a new church for 8,000 members. A new church in Reynosa will seat 7,000. Members of this church claim to have raised three people from the dead. One picture that sticks in my mind is a 2-year-old girl walking to church with her doll. The doll looked very old, only had one arm and was falling apart but she was content with what she had. This small church was located in a ranch area in the hills near Llera.

I am proud of being an American, and the Mexicans are proud of their Heritage. The Mexicans are a people to whom family means everything. Time is nothing and friendship is everything. They do not have the conveniences that we have, but they do not walk the fast-pace and stressful paths that we have created for ourselves.



Dennis Stevens finds solace in his missionary work and a worship service in the town of Llera, near Ciudad Mante, Mexico.